

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 2, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1606**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Shirley Horton**

February 21, 2003

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An act to add Section 22816.1 to the Government Code, relating to public employees' health benefits, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1606, as amended, Shirley Horton. Public employees' health benefits: military duty.

The Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act authorizes specified state employees enrolled in a health benefits plan to continue their enrollment, and the enrollment of their family members, in the plan during an approved leave of absence or for up to one year after being laid off.

This bill would authorize an employee of a contracting agency and his or her family members to continue their enrollment in a health benefits plan for up to one year while the employee is on military duty.

*The bill would declare that it would take effect immediately as an urgency statute.*

Vote: ~~majority~~ <sup>2/3</sup>. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1.   Section 22816.1 is added to the Government  
2   Code, to read:

3     22816.1.   An employee of a contracting agency and his or her  
4   family members may continue enrollment in a health benefits plan  
5   under this part if the employee is granted a leave of absence by the  
6   contracting agency for military duty. The coverage may continue  
7   for up to one year.

8     SEC. 2.   *This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*  
9   *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety*  
10  *within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go*  
11  *into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

12   *In order to ensure that employees of contracting agencies can*  
13  *elect to receive continuing health benefits coverage while on active*  
14  *military duty, including coverage of their family members, and*  
15  *avoid any disruption of their existing coverage, it is necessary that*  
16  *this act take effect immediately.*

